

### Farmers and Farm Help.

As there are "books and books"—meaning good and bad ones—so there are "men and men." Some farmers never have any trouble with their help and the farm work moves as steadily and with as little friction as clock-work; others are incessantly in trouble and everything goes wrong. We are acquainted with men who are laborers by the month or year on the farm, and who make their employers' interest their own. They work as well when the "boss" is away as when he is near, and, in everything they do, they consider how they would act if in their employer's position. There are others, also, who labor simply for the money they receive; they have no interest in the work, but listen with a keen ear for the dinner horn and watch with eager eye for the setting of the sun. To do the work somehow—not necessarily well—is the principle which governs them.

The farmer who is particular as to whom he employs; who has the bargain well understood, who pays well, pays willingly and promptly; who appreciates good service and fairly fulfills his part of the agreement, need have little fear of being troubled by his help. For such employers there is always some one to offer service; such employers are sought by "hired men," and in nine cases out of ten, satisfaction is mutual. But, unfortunately, not all employers are thus careful as to whom they hire or how they treat their help. They select from the "rough scull" class, from tramps and those who never have had a steady situation, simply because they can hire them for twenty-five cents less per day though, in reality, they receive a half dollar per day less in return for services. The usual result is that the farmer has to oversee all his work personally, look after the implements when not in use, go here and go there to give instructions, and thus lose largely his own time which, with intelligent, industrious help, could be elsewhere more profitably employed. In fact, each is intent on getting the most possible from the other, neither having the welfare of the other at heart. Such a condition of things is neither agreeable nor profitable.

We are aware that the same differences are liable to arise between employers and employed in other occupations, but the effects are more striking and more noticeable on the farm than in the work-shop or store where the routine of duty is more easily marked and the labor is more mechanical in its nature. Farm work can never be reduced to such exactness in detail that the workman can perform it satisfactorily unless he is thoroughly interested in it, and in hearty sympathy with his employer. So much for the hired hand, and on the other hand, to keep this interest alive, there must be on the part of the employer the approval and appreciation of work faithfully done.

But there is something more in this than the bare facts of work well done and well remunerated. There is a genuine satisfaction on the part of both employer and employee, and the resultant happiness which accrues to the men themselves and to their respective families is a thing to be sought for and prized. But when the men are continually at "loggerheads," their families feel the reactive influence, and even society is, in a degree, affected adversely by it. Whatever, then, will bring about mutual contentment and good will among farmers and their help should be fostered, and while "hired men" are fallible, the farmer should remember that it is largely in his power to make their mutual relations agreeable.

### Care of Carriage Tops in the Summer.

The hot sun during the two or three summer months does more injury to carriage tops than all the changeable weather during the remainder of the year. This is not necessarily the case, but is rather the result of carelessness or ignorance in caring for the leather. The black, bright surface of the leather becomes very hot, and, although it may never reach the same degree as when being manufactured, the enamel softens after a time, and crawls or scales off; dust also settles on the leather and adheres to the soft enamel, injuring its appearance and tending to cause it to dry out more rapidly than it otherwise would. This difficulty is often increased instead of being corrected by carriage repairers, who, in order to restore the appearance of the top, varnish it with a coat of common copal varnish; this becomes sticky, and when the top is let down the surfaces adhere to each other, and when cold, on lifting the top the varnish scales off, carrying with it the original enamel.

The best method of preventing this is to sponge off the top with clean cold water immediately after using. This will remove all dust and tend to keep the enamel soft and elastic, and prevent its sticking. It should also be oiled occasionally with sweet oil, applied with a cloth, and afterward rubbed with a linen or silk rag. The top should always be kept up when standing in the carriage-house, and be covered with a sheet. If the enamel has cracked or turned gray, the top should be washed off with castile soap and soft water, and well dried with a "shammy." All parts where the leather is exposed should be colored with vinegar rubbed over with a coat of blacking, prepared by mixing a small quantity of ivory black with a sufficient quantity of brandy to reduce it to a paste, and thinned with cream or sweet oil; apply with a cloth, and allow it to stand until nearly dry, then rub with a woolen cloth until all surplus color is removed; apply a thin coat of sweet oil, and polish with a silk rag. This will restore the color, soften the leather and prevent the enamel sticking. —Household.

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